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Sunday
June 22, 1952

This morning Joe Short telephoned me from the White House to say they were disquieted over the Owen Lattimore case, that the FBI had interviewed the informant who reported that Lattimore was going to Moscow, and found him utterly unreliable and the story false. State will no doubt have to eat crow. I shall talk it over tomorrow with Carl Humelsine and others before deciding with the White House what announcement to make. It seems extraordinary that none of the high officials in the Department were consulted before the Passport Division took this arbitrary action of notifying the Customs Bureau not to permit Lattimore to embark if he presented himself at a port. He had not applied for a passport, and they should have realized that although this stop-order was confidential it was almost certain to leak, and if so would damage Lattimore, to say nothing of causing a great public disturbance. Phil Graham called me yesterday to express the hope that if the investigation of the allegation proved its unsubstantiality the Department would make a handsome apology.

Tom Beale called for me at 11:45 A.M., and we went to the airport to be on hand to welcome Lord Alexander, Minister of Defense in the U.K., who has lately been in Korea. Bob Lovett, Frank Pace, Tom Finletter, General Bradley, lots of brass, a band, and a large honor guard were there, as well as some of the Commonwealth ambassadors. Alexander received a nineteen gun salute, reviewed the troops, and was treated with impressive ceremony. He is a fine figure, looking very Grenadier Guardsy.

Tom told me he was pleased with the story about Dean's recent

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colloquy with members of the French Cabinet regarding the Bey of Tunis. He told them [redacted] they vastly exaggerated the knowledge and detailed interest in the United States of conditions in Tunisia. "Most of our people", he said, "don't have any idea what the Bey of Tunis is. They probably think he is a body of water."

When I returned home, I found Vangie and [redacted] Two sets of Boys newly arrived after a five hour trip from Staunton Hill by car.

E. and I were at the airport at eight tonight to see Alice, Dean and the others take off in the Independence for London.

Afterwards we had a dinner for Ethel Fowler, Dr. Koepfli, Lorraine Shevlin, and Bill Tyler (Clos des Mouches 1948, Chateau L'Evangile 1943, and Bollinger 1928). Jamie Bonbright had sent me yesterday a 42 pound Cascapedia salmon, which I had boiled at the Metropolitan Club and we are now consuming it cold with great relish.

Jim Bruce called me tonight to say he had been in the hospital for ten days because of an infected tooth, which has now been wrenched from its moorings.

I talked to Audrey yesterday. She reported that her débutante dance, which she had dreaded, was [redacted] successful--the touchstone being that some of the guests had remained until 6 A.M. They had boats on the pond, and several of the young men added to the hilarity by tumbling overboard.

The Boys Special have brought back numbers of Virginia ticks, and assure martyrized expressions as they are plucked away. The tick disease amongst humans is [redacted] prevalent, but my own immediate concern is the threatened

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Japanese beetle invasion of our Georgetown garden. I've at last almost cleaned up the accumulation of years of magnolia leaves which seem resistant to dissolution. In the process of burning them, I've consumed masses of adjacent shrubbery.

Jim told me ~~that~~ he had shifted his office in New York from 230 Park Avenue to 260 Madison Avenue, another of the National Dairy Co. premises. In the latter building, they decided to have as telephone operators, elevator girls, secretaries, etc., nothing except red-headed girls. Therefore, all employees who did not qualify by nature spend much of their time being dyed and treated to achieve conformity, and the building is popularly known as too sexy Madison Avenue.

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